

March Means More Options

Starting March 30, 2009, Seattle will add new recycling services, including:

- Weekly food and yard waste collection for all households. Subscribers will be able to put leftover meat and dairy scraps in their carts.
- Glass bottles and jars will go in your recycling cart – no more sorting into a separate container!
- More plastics will be recycled, including cups and take-out containers.
- Special curbside electronics and used motor oil collection.
- New low-emission garbage and recycling trucks will dramatically reduce key pollutants in neighborhoods.



For more details on Seattle’s recycling programs, look for upcoming issues of CurbWaste & Conserve or sign up for CurbWaste E-News at www.seattle.gov/lists.



48.4% and Rising!

Thanks to your efforts, recycling hit an all-time high in 2007. Seattle businesses and residents recycled or composted 48.4 percent of all the waste they generated. Apartments, homes and businesses are recycling 120,000 more tons than they did in 2003, when the city banned recyclables from the garbage.

The city’s goal is to recycle 60 percent of all waste by the year 2012. Why? Because Seattle spends over \$19 million every year to send more than 400,000 tons of garbage to a landfill.

At least half of residential garbage is still made up of recyclable paper and compostable food scraps. Why waste a good thing? To learn more about Seattle’s recycling ordinance or receive free recycling or composting assistance, call **(206) RECYCLE** or visit www.seattle.gov/utl.

Holiday Collection Schedule

Customers will have regular garbage, recycling or yard waste collections on Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11. Seattle Public Utilities will have no garbage, recycling or yard waste collections on the following holidays:

- ❖ Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27
- ❖ Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25
- ❖ New Year’s Day, Thursday, January 1

For the Thanksgiving holiday, Thursday collections will be on Friday, November 28 and regular Friday collections will occur on Saturday, November 29. During Christmas and New Year’s holiday weeks, both Thursday collections will occur on Friday. All other solid waste collections are also delayed by one day during these two weeks.

Thank You!

Last year, Seattle residents and businesses helped make 50 million pounds of compost for local parks and gardens by putting leftover food scraps, coffee grounds, paper towels and pizza boxes in their yard and food waste carts – instead of the landfill.

Seattle and local retailers are offering great discounts to recognize Seattle’s 100,000 composting households (see other side). Check the pledge below, cut it out, and bring it to any local participating Seattle retailer. Offers end November 30, 2008.

☐ YES! I recycle my leftover food scraps, pizza boxes, and food-soiled paper in my food and yard waste cart, or compost them at home.



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 6000

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

700 5th Avenue, Suite 4900
Seattle, WA 98124-4018
PO Box 34018

Seattle Public Utilities

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.
如需要口譯服務，請撥電話號碼206-684-3000。
통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.
Wixii tunjubaan afka ah ku saabsan, Fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka: 206-684-3000.
Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al 206-684-3000.
Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.
Về dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-684-3000.

Seattle Public Utilities

CURBWASTE & Conserve

Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Fall 2008



Did you know that during intense rain, flooding may occur without warning? Here are a few steps you can take to keep your family and property safe.

- ✓ Clear leaves and debris away from street drains in your neighborhood with a rake or broom (only if it’s safe). Don’t put grass clippings, leaves, or other debris into drains, ditches, creeks, culverts, gutters or ravines. If a storm drain appears blocked below the street surface, call **(206) 386-1800**.
- ✓ Collect fallen leaves in your yard and deposit them in a yard waste container or compost them.
- ✓ Clean gutters and downspouts twice a year.
- ✓ Have a family disaster plan.
- ✓ Build a family emergency kit. Keep enough water, food and other supplies (flashlights, crank- or battery-operated radio, blankets) in your home to meet your needs for at least three days.
- ✓ Stay out of flooding basements.

Be the first to know! Sign up for CurbWaste & Conserve E-News to receive e-mail alerts on weather impacts to your garbage, recycling and drainage services. Go to www.seattle.gov/lists. Visit www.seattle.gov/emergency to also find information on making an emergency kit and creating a disaster plan for you and your family.

Help Prevent Flooding

You can help prevent flooding and improve water quality in your community and beyond by participating in Fall Clean 2008. Volunteer to help keep storm drains clear of leaves and other debris.



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Public Utilities
Chuck Clarke, Director

PO Box 34018
Seattle, WA
98124-4018

www.seattle.gov/utl
(206) 684-3000
(206) 233-7241 TTY

Seattle Public Utilities faces a big job every autumn trying to keep storm drains from clogging with leaves and flooding streets with rainwater. As a way to involve citizens the utility is promoting Fall Clean — a one-month event in November that supports volunteers with free gloves, bags, brooms, rakes, and safety vests, as well as help with leaf disposal.

Please don’t wait until the streets are flooding to take action. Your efforts also divert pollutants from streams, creeks and other natural waterways. For more information on Fall Clean call **(206) 233-7187** or visit www.seattle.gov/utl/adoptadrain.



Pamper Your Lawn and Garden AND Help Protect Our Climate!

Soil is the biggest carbon storehouse on Earth. Plants take in carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and use that carbon to build leaves, stems, and roots. When plants die, soil organisms use and store that carbon in the soil, a natural form of composting.

How Home Gardening Practices Can Help Reduce Greenhouse Gases

When you make and use compost, you are adding carbon to your soil in the form of organic matter. Studies show that much of that carbon taken out of the atmosphere by plants is retained in the soil, and even more carbon dioxide is drawn from the atmosphere by the soil organisms that your compost supports.

In addition, when we compost yard and food waste at home, or send it to be composted through our yard waste collection, we keep these materials out of the landfill. In landfills, these organic materials break down anaerobically (without oxygen) and release methane, another greenhouse gas.

How Using Compost Improves Your Lawn and Garden

Compost – decomposed organic matter – keeps your soil loose, moisture-holding, fertile and well drained.

- ◆ By keeping plants healthy with compost, you reduce the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides, both of which generate greenhouse gases in their manufacture.
- ◆ Compost helps soil retain moisture, so you need to water less often.
- ◆ Your soil will also soak up more rain in winter, while holding more moisture in the summer.

To learn more, visit www.seattle.gov/util/yard or contact the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224 or email help@gardenhotline.org.

Shop Smart – Bring Your Own Bag!

Consider a healthy change of habit, and bring your own reusable bag the next time you go shopping. You'll be making the right choice for the environment.

Cutting disposable bag use by 50 percent citywide will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 4,000 tons per year – the equivalent of taking 665 cars off the road. Fewer disposable bags also mean less garbage – by shopping with your new reusable bag you'll help reduce the trash Seattle sends to the landfill by 50 railroad cars every year.



Corey's Compost Coupons

To recognize Seattle residents for helping reduce garbage in the landfill by turning their food scraps into compost, the City of Seattle and local businesses are offering special discounts for a limited time.

- ◆ **Julia's Restaurants:** \$10 off your entire bill at our Queen Anne, Wallingford, or Broadway locations. *Not valid with any other offer, must be used with purchase of \$30 or more, valid Monday – Friday.*
- ◆ **Goods for the Planet:** Get 20% off an Endurance stainless steel kitchen compost pail. Store located at 525 Dexter Avenue North.
- ◆ **Snoose Junction Pizzeria:** \$10 off your entire bill at our Ballard location at 2305 NW Market Street. *Not valid with any other offer, must be used with purchase of \$30 or more.*
- ◆ **Victrola Coffee Roasters:** Buy one tall coffee or tea beverage, get one tall beverage free at our 310 East Pike Street and 411 15th Avenue East locations.
- ◆ **Cedar Grove Composting:** \$3 off a Kitchen Compost Kit. Purchase at www.cgcompost.com or call 1-877-764-5748. Use discount code SEA-KCK.

Fill out the pledge on the back side, cut out and redeem these offers by November 30.

Don't Be a Turkey! Keep Your Sewer Fat-Free

Homeowners and building owners are responsible for repairing and maintaining their side sewer connections to the city's sewer system. Sewer clogs often peak during the holiday season when turkeys, trimmings, and other holiday fare are prepared for friends and family.

Thanksgiving chefs have extra incentives to dispose of grease in a proper manner because if it goes down the drain, it can eventually harden and lead to clogging of private and public sewer lines. This can result in:

- Sewer backups
- Costly clean up bills
- Exposure to health risks
- A major dent in your holiday spirit!



Sewer Clogs Can be Costly

When a sewer backup is caused by a side sewer failure, you may be faced with digging up your yard, removing the adjoining sidewalk, and/or opening up the street, potentially costing tens of thousands of dollars. Repairs are NOT typically covered by home owners' insurance policies.

An Ounce of Prevention...

You can prevent grease from clogging your side sewer by pouring used dairy products, fats, oil, grease or greasy foods into a lidded container and placing it in the trash - NOT down the sink drain. Whether you're a new homeowner or have owned your home for many years, it's a good idea to have your side sewer inspected by a professional.



Dear Evelyn: Do I need to buy a new TV because of the switchover to digital broadcasting?

No. You can take steps to make sure your current analog television will work after the switchover on February 17, 2009. Here are two ways:

- If you currently use an antenna, purchase a digital-to-analog converter and install it. Until March 31, 2009 the Department of Commerce is offering up to two \$40 coupons per household for use toward purchasing the boxes. Coupons expire after 90 days from the date mailed. For information about the coupons, call 1-888-388-2009 or go to www.dtv2009.gov.
- If you have a digital TV cable or satellite television, you do not need to do anything. Your TV will still work.

If you do have an old television or other electronics lying around, it is important that you dispose of them properly due to hazardous materials in them. Go to www.ecyclewashington.org or call 1-800-RECYCLE to learn about your options, including free electronic drop-off recycling starting January 1, 2009.

Dear Evelyn: I have an idea to reduce waste in my community. Can the city support my efforts?

Yes. If you've thought about ways of preventing unnecessary waste from going to the landfill, now's your chance to put your ideas and energy into action by applying for a Waste Prevention and Recycling Matching Grant.

The grant provides incentives for the community to partner with the city to reduce the amount of materials going into the landfill through Seattle's solid waste system. Groups and individuals may apply. Amounts range from \$2,000 to \$25,000. Recipients match the city's investment by 50 percent with a mix of donated time, materials, professional services, cash, and other non-city grants.

Applications for projects starting in 2009 are due November 5. Contact Veronica Fincher, (206) 233-2534 or veronica.finch@seattle.gov, for more details and an application.

Dear Evelyn: The holidays are coming soon. How can I stay in the spirit of the season and reduce my environmental footprint?

Rethink gifts with lots of packaging and give experiences instead of stuff. Visit www.wastefreeholidays.com for ideas and discounts from local retailers. There is more trash from paper and food during the holidays than any other time of the year. Reuse gift wrap paper or creatively use maps, fabric, scarves, or old calendar pages. Prepare food in right portions and use up leftovers. Compost food scraps. Use durable tableware, or compost plain uncoated paper plates. Instead of envelopes, send electronic holiday cards.

Happy Holidays!

Please send your recycling questions, tips or suggestions to Ask Evelyn, Seattle Public Utilities
PO Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018
or e-mail Evelyn the Envelope at askevelyn@seattle.gov

This information can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance.
Call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 684-3000. TDD telephone number is (206) 233-7241.
Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.